

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



December 18, 1986

Office of
The Archbishop
100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513/421-3131

Rev. _____, S.P., M.A., D.Min.
Director
Servants of the Eucharist
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Father

I am writing in response to your request for a letter from me describing the difficulties which have brought Father _____, a priest of this Archdiocese, to the point of needing a renewal program such as that offered at Foundation House. I am more than willing to do so, because I am convinced that he can profit a great deal from the opportunity being offered him at this time, if he will be open to it himself.

Fr. _____ was ordained a priest in 1974. Most of the following years until 1984, he served on the faculty of Elder High School, an all boys diocesan school. He served quite effectively there, much appreciated for his hard work, competent teaching, and extra-curricular faculty responsibilities.

In the fall of 1983, the priest principal reported that he had been contacted by parents of at least two students. They said their sons had told them, along with others, they had been involved in parties in Fr. _____ private rooms at the rectory of the parish where he was in residence. During the parties, Fr. _____ had them take off their clothes and he touched their genitals. On at least some of these occasions, he had been drinking a good bit and shared beer with them.

These accusations were brought to the attention of Fr. _____ by the principal, in the presence of Fr. _____, our Priests' Personnel Director. Fr. _____ admitted having boys in his rooms, playing games with them in which the person losing a turn had to take off an article of clothing. He admitted drinking beer, but not to excess. He admitted nothing further. Within a few weeks, the same kind of reports were brought to the principal by several additional students.

Fearing the real possibility of widespread scandal and possible further harm to students, as well as the reputation of the school, Fr. _____ was told that he would have to leave the faculty and the parish. He readily agreed. He was strongly advised repeatedly by Fr. _____ to enter into professional counseling. He never did, to the best of my knowledge.

AR:_____

He was then assigned to St. Christopher Parish, near Dayton, Ohio, as Associate Pastor. He and the pastor, Fr. [redacted] had known each other for some years and Fr. [redacted] was very positive about the chance to serve with him. While Fr. [redacted] has expressed some concerns about Fr. [redacted] companionship or junior high age boys, there have been no further specific accusations of immoral behavior with boys while at St. Christopher.

However, earlier this year a priest in another parish wrote to me that a young man he was preparing for marriage told him that a very close friend of his was suffering emotionally because of incidents some years ago with Fr. [redacted]. They were described in much the same way as those alluded to above. I shared the letter with Fr. [redacted], with the permission of the priest who sent it. Fr. [redacted] responded that he did not do anything which would explain the young man's emotional disturbance.

On April 27, 1984, Fr. [redacted] was arrested for DUI. He was required by the court to participate in an alcohol education program. Before and after this, Fr. [redacted] said he had reasons to believe that Fr. [redacted] was drinking quite a lot privately in his rooms. Upon our insistence, he submitted to an evaluation for the disease of alcoholism, and was diagnosed as being alcohol dependent. As a result, again at our insistence, he enrolled in an Alcohol Treatment Program (30 day) at Bethesda Base Hospital, Cincinnati. However, he did not participate afterwards in AA meetings or obtain an AA sponsor, etc. There are continuing signs that he is drinking to excess, according to Fr. [redacted]. He recently left a parish social event intoxicated and ran into a fence along the road and damaged his car. This was the first incident of public intoxication in the presence of parishioners.

It is significant to note that Fr. [redacted] parish ministry has been carried out with recognized competence and is much appreciated by the parishioners. Fr. [redacted] though, has taken the position that, since Fr. [redacted] would not be needed, it would not be appropriate for him to continue in his assignment at St. Christopher after the program at Foundation House. Also, he has found his experience with Fr. [redacted] to be very stressful to him personally and he is fearful of what may happen if he were to continue there. At the same time, he wants to maintain their friendship and would always welcome Fr. [redacted] as a guest.

I want to thank you for accepting Fr. in your program. I want him to have every possible opportunity to resolve the difficulties that have been exhibited in his behavior. I will do all I can to be of assistance to him and to you and your staff to that end.

This letter contains information that could also be furnished by the pertinent other persons, e.g., Fr., Fr. (High School Principal), and Fr. (Priestly Formation Director). They have been consulted in the formulation of this letter. Unless you request otherwise, I will not ask them to write separately. If they were to be so requested, I am sure they would respond. As per your assurance, I am presuming that you or one of your staff will share this letter with Fr.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev.
Archbishop of Cincinnati